

April 26, 1960

Dr. Alan Waterman, Director
National Science Foundation
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Waterman:

This is to follow up my telegram of today's date.

Your inquiry as to my availability for nomination to the National Science Board left me deeply honored, but posed a problem for thoughtful conscience. I have had to conclude that it would be unwise to accept this responsibility at the present time.

The organization of a new department at Stanford Medical School and other public and professional responsibilities are already very demanding preoccupations which have left little enough time to do my own work in the laboratory and try to keep up with the scientific literature in my own field. The additional burden of conscientious attention to NSF affairs, in these circumstances, could preclude my continued participation in laboratory research.

This kind of decision is not made lightly; but I know that you will have access to many other equally suitable or better qualified nominees.

The objectives of the Foundation must concern any citizen and scientist and I hope to be able to serve them in a way that includes the coherence of my activity in research.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor and Executive
Department of Genetics

WATERMAN, A. T.